

Kesh Temple Hymn

Anuna lords, wisdom, ritual order, and kingship seed

Kesh Temple Hymn: Anuna Lords, Wisdom, Ritual Order, and Kingship Seed

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Main takeaway: P272905 directly calls the Anuna gods the lords of the Kesh temple, and the composition ties that temple to Nisaba's tablets, Abzu/heaven foundations, ritual offices, wisdom, and kingship/fate motifs.

Main sources

- CDLI P272905 / WAM 48.1802, Old Babylonian Kesh Temple Hymn prism.
- CDLI P226038 / IM 070295, ED IIIa Abu Salabikh line-art witness with broken a-nun line.
- CDLI P464240 / Q000751 composite and ETCSL c.4.80.2 translation, text, and bibliography.
- CDLI P272905 photo and P226038 line art for visual controls.

Limit

P272905 / WAM 48.1802

Kesh Temple Hymn: Anuna lords, tablet custody, ritual order



CDLI P272905 photo: Walters prism

Physical anchor

P272905 is an Old Babylonian clay prism in the Walters Art Museum, catalogued by CDLI as a witness to the Kesh Temple Hymn.

Direct Anuna line

Surface d line 9 reads e2 en-bi {d}a-nun-na-mesz: the house whose lords are the Anuna gods.

Institutional context

The Anuna line is followed by king, priests, waters, honey, instruments, and ritual actions, making it useful for temple administration.

Corpus value

The source adds temple technology, writing/tablet custody, Abzu/heaven foundations, wisdom, ritual office, and kingship-seed motifs.

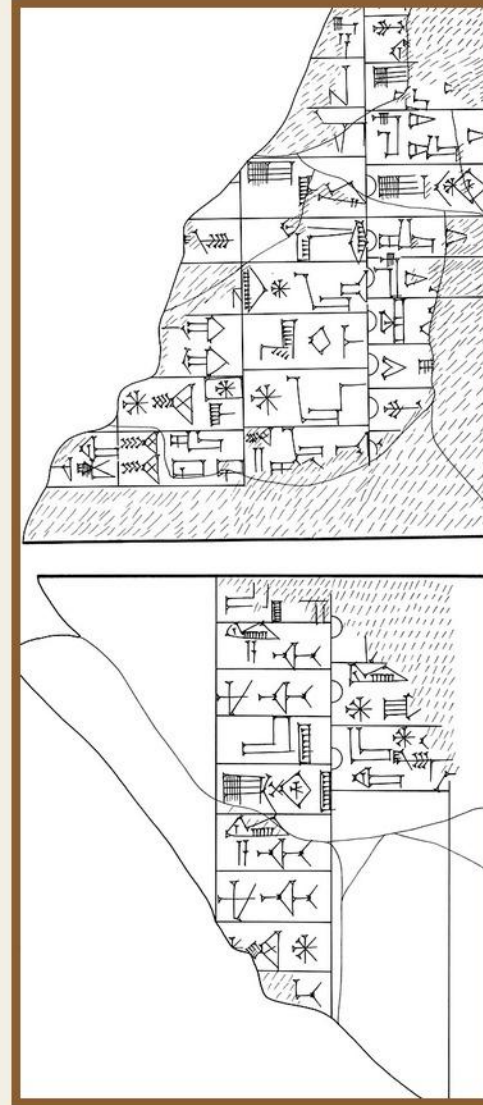
Witness Split

Old Babylonian prism plus earlier Abu Salabikh line-art witness

P272905: Old Babylonian prism



P226038: ED IIIa a-nun witness



P272905 carries the direct surface d Anuna-lords line and ritual sequence. P226038 is much earlier and broken, but it preserves an a-nun line near Kesh/house/priestly wording.

Evidence Chain

How the Kesh hymn advances the temple, wisdom, and ritual-order proof gap

1 Tablet Custody

Nisaba acts as decision-maker; the hymn says the words are written on tablets and held in her hands.

2 Cosmic Temple

The house is a heaven-barge with foundations fixed in the Abzu and a shade covering all lands.

3 Anuna Lords

P272905 directly calls the Anuna gods the lords of the house.

4 Ritual Offices

King, en priest, a-tu priest, water-bearer, enkum priests, pashesh priests, and musicians form a ritual order.

5 Wisdom Variant

A one-manuscript addition says the house of the Anuna gives wisdom to the people and supports shrines.

6 Kingship Seed

The same variant says the house gives birth to kings and determines the destinies of the land.

Corpus value: this is not a court tablet, but it is strong temple-institution evidence linking Anuna authority with writing, ritual offices, wisdom, Abzu/heaven architecture, and kingship motifs.

Selected Lines

Published sense, working reading, and caution

P272905 surface a 10-12 / Q000751 lines 10-12

Translit: {d}nisaba nu-ka-asz-bi-im / inim-bi-ta sa-ginx im-da-an-sur /
dub-ba sar-sar szu-sze3 al-ga2-ga2

Caution: High for the P272905 witness and CDLI/ETCSL line control.

Working: The hymn opens its authority through writing and tablet custody before the Anuna line appears later.

P272905 surface a-b 24-36 / Q000751 lines 22-38

Translit: ma2-gur8-nun-ginx an-na diri-ga ... te-me-bi abzu-a si-ga ...
e2-an-ne2 ki-gar-ra

Caution: High for broad imagery; individual metaphorical details remain poetic.

Working: Heaven, barge imagery, Abzu foundation, and An's founding make this a temple-cosmos text, not a simple building notice.

P272905 surface d 7-10 / Q000751 lines 104-107

Translit: e2-ku2 KU-bi e2-nin / e2-kesz{ki} KU-bi e2-nun / e2 en-bi
{d}a-nun-na-mesz / nu-esz3-bi giri2-la2 e2-an-na-me-esz

Caution: Very high for P272905 surface d line 9 and the CDLI witness text.

Working: This is the safest core claim: a real Old Babylonian prism directly calls the Anuna the lords of the temple.

P272905 surface d 11-21 / Q000751 lines 108-119

Translit: lugal-bur-ra ... en-du10 ... a-tu-e szibir ... tu-e a-ur4-a ...
enkum-e-ne ... pa4-szesz-e-ne ... tigi

Caution: Medium-high: the sequence is direct in P272905, though some technical ritual terms should stay untranslated.

Working: The Anuna-lord line is immediately followed by a priestly and ritual order, making the passage useful for institutional practice.

ETCSL/Q000751 lines 58C-58M, one-manuscript addition

Translit: [e2] a2 nun-jal2 {d}a-nun-ke4-ne uj3 jalga cum2-mu ... [e2]
lugal u3-tud nam kalam-ma tar-re

Caution: Medium: important for the corpus, but it must be labeled as variant/composite evidence.

Working: This is strong motif context but not the main physical claim; ETCSL marks it as an addition in one manuscript.

P226038 obverse column 3 1'-8'

Translit: [x x] a-nun [x x] / [nu]-esz3# / [x] musz3 / e2 lugal / kishi{ki}
/ bur am6-ma-gub / en du10 ME / am6-ma-la2

Caution: Medium for the broken a-nun evidence; high for its ED IIIa witness value.

Working: It confirms early transmission of the Anuna/Kesh cluster, but the broken line cannot carry the full later translation.

Support And Limits

Evidence-honest Anunnaki corpus use

What It Supports

- Strong direct witness for Anuna as lords of a major Sumerian temple in P272905.
- Strong for a ritual-institution chain: king, priests, offerings, waters, honey, instruments, and temple completion.
- Useful for writing and knowledge transfer because Nisaba, tablets, and variant wisdom-to-the-people language are part of the composition.
- Important for deep transmission: P226038 gives an ED IIIa broken a-nun control centuries earlier than the Old Babylonian prism.

What It Does Not Prove

- The ED IIIa a-nun line is broken and cannot support the full later translation alone.
- The wisdom and kingship lines in 58C-58M are marked by ETCSL as a one-manuscript addition.
- The hymn is a temple hymn, not a neutral administrative ledger or technical manual.
- It does not state extraterrestrial identity, Nibiru, spacecraft, genetic engineering, mining, or machines.

Daily capability improvement: add a temple-institution rubric that separates direct witness lines, early broken controls, and one-manuscript variant evidence.

Source Appendix

Archived source links and witness split

CDLI P272905: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/272905>

CDLI P272905 JSON: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/272905/json>

CDLI P272905 photo: <https://cdli.earth/dl/photo/P272905.jpg>

CDLI P226038: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/226038>

CDLI P226038 JSON: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/226038/json>

CDLI P226038 line art: https://cdli.earth/dl/lineart/P226038_l.jpg

CDLI P464240 composite: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/464240>

ETCSL translation: <https://etcsl.orinst.ox.ac.uk/section4/tr4802.htm>

ETCSL composite: <https://etcsl.orinst.ox.ac.uk/section4/c4802.htm>

ETCSL bibliography: <https://etcsl.orinst.ox.ac.uk/section4/b4802.htm>

Daily capability improvement

Temple-institution rubric: direct Anuna line, early broken control, tablet/writing frame, ritual office sequence, and variant wisdom/kingship evidence are scored separately.